

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-13 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 SCEM-02

FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 SCI-06 CEQ-02 RSR-01 /184 W

----- 093539

R 010307 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1028

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3046

E. O. 11 652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, AS

SUBJ: LOS: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S STATEMENT ON

LAW OF THE SEA

REF: A. STATE 10322 B CANBERRA 2694

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED REF A, TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S STATEMENT IN APIA, WESTERN SAMOA MAY 18 ON LAW OF THE SEA IS PROVIDED THIS MESSAGE. PORTION ON PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS BY SUBMERGED SUBMARINES IS ONLY ONE PARAGRAPH OF TEXT PROVIDED BY DFA BUT INDICATES GOA DECISION NOT TO SUPPORT SUCH PASSAGE BY SUBMARINES OF " GREAT NAVAL POWERS". END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TEXT PROVIDED BY DFA OF SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM IN APIA, WESTERN SAMOA, ON APRIL 18, 1973:
QTE WE' VE MOVED VERY CONSIDERABLY FROM WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CATEGORIZED AS THE US OR US POSITION TO THAT OF THE SBUSTANCE OF THE SANTO DOMINGO DECLARATION.
QTE WE NO LONGER SUPPORT THE POINT OF VIEW OF COUNTRIES WHO WANT THEIR COMPANIES TO BE ABLE TO DRILL
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FOR OIL AND SEARCH FOR MINERALS AS CLOSE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE.
QTE INSTEAD WE WANT TO HAVE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS TO EXPLORE FOR AND EXPLOIT MINERAL AND OIL RESOURCES OUT TO THE EDGE OF OUR CONTINENTAL MARGIN.
QTE NOR DO WE SUPPORT THE POINT OF VIEW OF GREAT NAVAL POWERS WHO WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEND THEIR SUBMARINES SUBMERGED THROUGH STRAITS.
QTE WE'VE MOVED FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE MARITIME POWERS TO A POSITION WHERE WE WANT TO INCREASE OUR OWN NATIONAL JURISDICTION AS MUCH AS WE CAN AS REGARDS FISHERIES AND OFFSHORE RESOURCES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
QTE I UNDERSTAND THAT FIJI HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THIS LINE FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
QTE WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THERE IS NO OCEAN IN THE WORLD WHERE THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLES ARE SO MUCH A MATTER OF COMMON CONCERN- INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, MICRONESIA, AND ALL THE ISLANDS.
QTE SEVERAL OF THE STATES REPRESENTED IN THE FORUM HAVE ARCHIPELAGOS OR CONSIST OF ARCHIPELAGOS AND WE ARE BECOMING MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR POINT OF VIEW.
QTE IN GENERAL WE ARE PURSUING THE CONCEPT OF A 200 MILES FISHING ZONE, AND THAT THE COASTAL STATE SHOULD RETAIN SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER SEABED RESOURCES TO THE OUTER EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN. END QTE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH BAILEY, LEGAL SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAY 31, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE IN KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS AND HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH ROUND-TRIP AIR FARE FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO SEE IF HE COULD GET AWAY FROM CANBERRA TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. IF BAILEY IS ABLE TO GO, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT CURRENT STATUS OF GOA CONSIDERATION OF LOS MATTERS.

4. EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO SEEK INFORMATION

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MATION AS STATED REF B IN TIME FOR JULY/ AUGUST LOS NEGOTIATIONS.
HARROP

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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